

Call to Order

State Board of Education President Gray called the Special Meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. The following State Board members were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Nina Lou Bunting, Vice President; Barbara Rutt; and Terry Whittaker. Deputy Attorney General Valerie Dunkle and State Board Executive Director Donna Johnson were also in attendance.

Public Comment

Three individuals signed up to address the Board during Public Comment.

Bill Doolittle, an advocate, asked the State Board to consider engaging all stakeholders in their decision making process and engage the involvement of stakeholders. The Board could be the consensus voice for all stakeholders.

Tammy Croce, Executive Director of the Delaware Association of School Administrators spoke on behalf of her membership in support of House Bill 143.

Kristin Dwyer from the Delaware State Education Association spoke in reference to Senate Bill 62. She noted that the school nurse membership was divided with half in support of the bill and half not supporting the legislation.

Legislative Update for Discussion and Action

The Board received a listing of bills and resolutions of the 149th General Assembly. The listing provides the date introduced, the bill number, the sponsor, a description and the status. Ms. Johnson also noted if the legislation is aligned to the Boards Public Education Positions. The final column would be for the Board to vote on its position and Ms. Johnson indicated if the legislation was aligned to the PEP which the Board could support or oppose if there was no alignment. If it was noted as neutral then the legislation may have a connection to the Board's PEP but the Board does not support nor oppose. If the column is blank that indicates that the Board has no position at this time.

The Board took the following action:

House Substitute 1 to House Bill 12 (Special Education funding K-3): A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the State Board supports the concept but has no position on the specific path proposed in the current bill to achieve the outcome. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote.

House Bill 60 (Opt out of Smarter Balanced Assessments): A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting to oppose this legislation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board noted that this is the same position they had for the similar bill introduced last session.

House Bill 70 (Cursive Writing): A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the State Board encourages the inclusion of cursive writing into the curriculum but respects the responsibility of the development of that curriculum reside with the local education agency. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

House Substitute 1 for House Bill 85 (Charter School preference/5 mile radius): Ms. Johnson explained that former State Board member R.L. Hughes served on the Enrollment Preference Task Force. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the State Board reiterate its position from the Task Force and support the concept of the removing of the five mile radius but has no position on other aspects of the legislation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board recessed from 1:47 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

House Bill 143 (Removes performance assessment requires for new educators): It was noted that this legislation was in opposition to the Board's Public Education Positions and the Board at its December meeting approved the cut scores presented by the Professional Standards Board for the performance assessment. It was noted that DASA supported this legislation and Ms. Croce made public comment earlier. A motion was made by Mrs. Rutt that the Board oppose House Bill 143 as the Board's Public Education Positions is in opposition of the current language of House Bill 143. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board recessed from 2:31 p.m. to 2:36 p.m.

House Joint Resolution 4 (Multi literacy): The Board agreed to have no position.

Senate Bill 62 (Requirements of Initial Licensure/School Nurse): A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker that consistent with the Board's comments at its December 2016 meeting on Regulation 1510 the Board recognizes the professional requirements of a BSN and supports this legislation to remove the test of general knowledge. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Bunting and carried unanimously by voice vote.

House Bill 17 and House Bill 55 (Increase minimum age of required attendance): Ms. Johnson described both pieces of legislation and the difference between the two bills. A motion was made by Mrs. Bunting that consistent with the Board's Public Education Positions the Board supports increase the minimum age of required school attendance but is neutral as to how that pat should be achieved. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote.

House Bill 98 (DIAA): This legislation is in response to an appeal received by DIAA where no action was taken. It was the consensus of the Board that the Board have no position on this legislation.

There was also discussion on House Bill 149, Senate Bill 19 and Senate Bill 18. Ms. Johnson will update the Board's legislative chart.

Update on JLOSC Process

Dr. Gray updated the Board members on the recent meeting before the JLOSC and noted that there was not sufficient time so the Board is now scheduled to return to the JLOSC meeting on May 11th. Ms. Johnson stated that the draft bill based on the recommendations has been distributed to the Board and she will continue to give feedback to the JLOSC staff based on the comments by the Board and counsel. Ms. Johnson also distributed a mock agenda for a State Board meeting based on the recommendation for public comment. She will share the draft with JLOSC staff.

A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.